

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-20. (Cancelled)

21. (new) A brake shoe assembly comprising:

a brake shoe having an outer radial surface;

a brake plate secured to the outer radial surface of the brake shoe, the brake plate having a backing plate that supports a brake lining;

at least one slot formed on the backing plate and at least one key provided on the brake shoe for resisting radial movement of the brake plate relative to the outer radial surface of the brake shoe; and

a plurality of fasteners for securing the brake plate to the brake shoe;

at least one fastener being preassembled to the to the brake plate and extending away from the brake plate toward the brake shoe, the brake shoe having holes for receiving the fasteners, the preassembled fasteners being inserted into corresponding ones of the holes to facilitate alignment of the key within the slot, wherein the balance of the plurality of fasteners are inserted into the brake plate and the brake shoe after the preassembled fasteners align the key with the slot.

22. (new) The brake shoe assembly of claim 21 wherein the fasteners are rivets.

23. (new) The brake shoe assembly of claim 21 wherein the preassembled fasteners are longer than the brake shoe key to facilitate aligning the key relative to the slot prior to the slot receiving the key.

24. (new) The brake shoe assembly of claim 21 wherein the preassembled fasteners are secured to the brake shoe by a flaring tool.

25. (new) The brake shoe assembly of claim 21 further comprising a friction material brake lining molded over and covering the preassembled fasteners.

26. (new) A brake shoe assembly comprising:
a brake shoe having an outer radial surface;
a brake plate secured to the outer radial surface of the brake shoe, the brake plate having a backing plate that supports a brake lining;
at least one slot formed on the brake shoe and at least one key provided on the backing plate for resisting radial movement of the brake plate relative to the outer radial surface of the brake shoe; and
a plurality of fasteners for securing the brake plate to the brake shoe; and
a frictional brake lining molded on the brake plate, the brake lining having cut out portions exposing four corners of the brake plate, wherein each exposed corner of the brake plate has a hole for receiving one of the fasteners for fastening the brake plate to the brake shoe.

27. (new) The brake shoe assembly of claim 26 wherein the slot is axially elongated to receive a correspondingly elongated key.

28. (new) The brake shoe assembly of claim 27 wherein the at least one slot formed on the brake shoe includes a pair of axially elongated slots for receiving the at least one key on the backing plate that includes a corresponding pair of axially elongated keys formed on the backing plate.

29. (new) The brake shoe assembly of claim 26 wherein the key is integrally formed as part of the backing plate.

30. (new) A method for manufacturing a brake assembly, the method comprising:

providing a brake plate having a plurality of fastener apertures and an alignment slot, wherein four of the fastener apertures are corner fastener apertures provided at four corners

of the brake plate and two of the fastener apertures are intermediate fastener apertures provided on opposite sides of the brake plate;

inserting a set of preassembled fasteners into the two intermediate fastener apertures of the brake plate;

molding a friction material brake lining over the set of preassembled fasteners, the friction material brake lining covering the set of preassembled fasteners;

providing a brake shoe having a plurality of holes corresponding to the location of the plurality of apertures of the brake plate, the brake shoe further including a key protruding from an outer radial surface;

mating the brake plate slot with the brake shoe key by aligning the preassembled fasteners with corresponding holes in the brake shoe prior to the brake plate slot receiving the brake shoe key;

inserting a fastener in each of the four fastener apertures at the corners of the brake plates, the fasteners extending through corresponding holes in the brake shoe and apertures in the brake plate; and

securing the brake plate by fastening the fasteners and the preassembled fasteners to the brake shoe with the brake plate slot receiving the brake shoe key to resist radial movement of the brake plate relative to the outer radial surface of the brake shoe.

31. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein the molding step comprises molding friction material brake lining on the brake plate while preventing application of the brake lining over portions of the four corners of the brake plate, wherein each corner of the brake plate includes one of the four corner fastener apertures.

32. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein providing the brake plate comprises forming the brake slot as an axially elongated aperture and forming the brake shoe key as an axially elongated rib to fit within the axially elongated brake plate aperture.

33. (new) The method of claim 30 further comprising forming a pair of axially elongated slots in the brake plate and forming a corresponding pair of axially elongated keys in the brake shoe.

34. (new) The method of claim 30 wherein providing the brake shoe comprises forming the brake shoe key as an integrally formed portion of the brake shoe.

35. (new) A vehicle drum brake shoe assembly comprising:
a cylindrical brake shoe having an outer radial surface;
a brake plate secured to the outer radial surface of the brake shoe;
a frictional brake lining molded over and covering the preassembled fasteners to secure the preassembled fasteners to the brake plate, wherein the brake plate having four corners and wherein the brake lining does not cover the four corners of the brake plate, each corner of the brake plate having a hole for receiving one of the fasteners for fastening the brake plate to the brake shoe;

at least one key and at least one slot for receiving the at least one key for resisting radial movement of the brake plate relative to the outer radial surface of the brake shoe; and

at least one preassembled fastener secured to and extending away from the brake plate toward the brake shoe, the brake shoe having at least one hole for receiving the preassembled fasteners, the preassembled fasteners being inserted into the brake shoe holes prior to mating the slot with the key to facilitate alignment of the brake shoe key with the brake plate slot.

36. (new) The brake shoe assembly of claim 35 wherein the brake plate slot is axially elongated to receive a correspondingly elongated brake shoe key.

37. (new) The brake shoe assembly of claim 35 wherein the brake plate slot is elongated and extends circumferentially to receive a correspondingly elongated circumferentially elongated brake shoe key.